

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

Volume XXXVIII. No. 353

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

- WOODS MUSEUM, Broadway, corner Third st.—The Irish Detective. Afternoon and evening.
BROADWAY THEATRE, 725 and 730 Broadway.—The Woman in White.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, Eighth av. and Twenty-third st.—HURTY DEBILITY ABROAD.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Friday, Dec. 19, 1873.

THE NEWS OF YESTERDAY.

To-Day's Contents of the Herald.

- FORT MURILLO PREPARES TO FIRE UPON A VESSEL OF THE HERALD NEWS FLEET! THE NONPAREIL INTERCEPTED AT THE ENTRANCE TO BAHIA HONDA AND ALL COMMUNICATION WITH THE AMERICAN VESSELS DEBARRED.—SEVENTH PAGE.
THE VIRGINIUS' DESTINATION REPORTED FROM HAVANA! TO PROCEED TO WASHINGTON AND HAVE HER RIGHT TO CARRY OUR FLAG INVESTIGATED.—SEVENTH PAGE.
MAP OF CUBA, FREE AND SNAVEHOLDING! HISTORIC POINTS OF THE PAST DECADE.—THIRD PAGE.

THE PRESIDENT'S SALARY QUESTION IN FRANCE.—While in the Congress of the United States, on Wednesday last, they were hedging and shuffling on the repeal of the increased salary and back pay bill, the Committee on Finance in the French Assembly at Versailles were voting to increase the salary of President MacMahon to the extent of a few hundred thousand dollars, in order to enable him to give fetes at Paris.

THE NAVAL APPROPRIATION OF five million dollars asked for by Secretary Robeson for the good work he has done in placing our war vessels in seaworthy condition has at length been granted by Congress. There was a deal of talk and grumbling, after four millions had been agreed upon, to get the extra million; but yesterday a reluctant assent was given. It must have been a bitter dose for those Western legislators whose only ideas of naval power seem to be founded upon stern wheelers and flatboats.

The Muddle in Congress Regarding the National Finances.

The Committee of Ways and Means has been trying to solve the difficulty of the present financial condition of the government, and on Wednesday sprung a debate, chiefly among its own members, in the House of Representatives on the subject.

Resolved, That it is the duty of Congress during the present session to adopt definite measures to redeem the pledge made in the act approved March 18, 1869, entitled "An act to strengthen the public credit, as follows:—And the United States solemnly pledges its faith to make provision at the earliest practicable period for the redemption of the United States notes in coin."

This was reported, it is said, because the committee could not agree upon any measure whatever, every member having a theory of his own, and because this appeared to be the easiest way of bringing the matter before the Senate. It was, in fact, to test the Senate on the subject and to receive instructions. It is further reported that the committee were about equally divided as to expansion or contraction of the circulating medium, four being for and four against, and one being undecided.

The resolution reported from the Senate Finance Committee by Mr. Sherman is utterly impracticable at the present time and not applicable to the question at issue. It is all very well to talk about pledging the faith of the government to redeem the legal tenders in coin and to instruct the Committee on Finance to prepare for that; but where is the coin to come from?

There is some speculation as to whether or no the building of a bridge across the Hudson at Poughkeepsie is going to ruin this city by giving all the traffic from the West an easy way to go by us in search of better customers and better accommodations in the happy little cities of the Down East lands.

At a meeting of the Union League of America, at Philadelphia, the other evening, it was resolved, in behalf of liberty and justice, that "we claim to enter our protest against the cruelties exercised by the Spanish authorities in the island of Cuba towards a portion of its free-born citizens, and more particularly towards that class of the human race still kept in bondage, and we are satisfied that no permanent peace can come to the island until the bonds of slavery are stricken from their limbs, and that, in view of these facts, we urge upon our present Congress the duty of according belligerent rights to those who are struggling for liberty in the island."

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FOGS AND FERRIES.—AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE.—If our columns have not been crowded during the past two days with harrowing details of frightful calamities it is not the fault of the ferry companies. At any time during the dense fog which hung over the bay and the North and East rivers collisions were possible which might have entailed the loss of hundreds of lives.

STRIKING THE INDIANS.—Lieutenant Hodson, of the Fourth cavalry, reports that on the 16th inst. he struck the band of Indians that had been murdering and plundering on the Nueces River, Texas, and that his force killed nine of the fed men, wounded a good many more and captured eighty-one animals. This striking of them is the only effective way of dealing with our red brethren on the warpath.

well be taken off this estimate. So on through other estimates of the list submitted by the Secretary of the Treasury in his report there must be made reductions. There is an estimate under the ambiguous term "permanent" of nearly nineteen millions, which, in all probability, could be pared down considerably.

There is no reason why the expense of government should be in time of peace a hundred and ninety millions a year, exclusive of interest on the debt. Allowing even a considerable sum for a sinking fund the cost of government would be nearly three times greater than it was just before the war, not reckoning the debt interest. The increase of population and expense of carrying on the government are not so much greater. We are really keeping up the extravagance of war times. Mr. Richardson and his predecessors have been too intent on paying off the national debt rapidly, while keeping up extravagant current expenditures, and now, when a temporary financial disturbance comes, the government is embarrassed and calls for help.

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The New York Harbor Obstructions.

Public attention has been called to the rapidly increasing obstructions in our harbor by the grounding of the steamship Greece. We hope the subject will receive that prompt attention from Congress which its importance demands. Whatever tends to interrupt the trade of New York necessarily deranges the commerce of large sections of the States.

While we must look chiefly to Congress to ward off the threatened danger much may be done by a strict enforcement of existing laws and the exercise of greater vigilance over suspected offenders. So far the evidence points to two causes as tending to block up the channels and so render the harbor impracticable for ships of large tonnage. The emptying of ashes from steamships, which is gradually filling up the channels and decreasing the width of the rivers, is interfering with the wash of the tide. These two causes combined are now menacing to close our harbor.

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The Only Lively Incident of the Surrender.

Yesterday we published the details of a sneaking sequel in the harbor of Bahia Honda to the diplomacy of Secretary Buchu. This morning we publish the details of the stealing out of the Virginias by the Spanish authorities from under the noses of the unsuspecting volunteers, whose brutal rage was simmering down delightfully. As companion pictures they should be hung up in the Department of State at Washington. Insulted majesty receiving the stonement might be the titles. In proportion as the majesty of the affair is invisible it will be nearer the truth. After a crime which roused the indignant feelings of the civilized world, the poor ceremony, which was deliberately made to wear the appearance of a piece of contemptuous condescension on the part of Spain and a humble reception of aims on the part of the United States, can only awaken feelings of derision the world over.

The only thing to relieve the surrender from absolute fatness was the adventures of a Herald correspondent, who, in this supposititious hour of American triumph, had the supreme credulity to believe that the American flag would protect him sufficiently to allow him entry to Bahia Honda during the "ceremonies" of the surrender. This amusing piece of misplaced confidence will be heartily enjoyed by the American people, who are well aware that the protocol and its consequences were never intended by Secretary Buchu or any other of the "high contracting parties" to give the American flag in Cuba any rights which a Spaniard is bound to respect.

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icans must remain united and fight as one man. The unhappy differences between Castelar and Salmeron have been a great drawback to the success of the young Republic. These differences have been got over, and Salmeron gives his own strength and the strength of his friends to the government. It will be well for Spain if all the other interests unite. What Spain wants is a strong government, and love of country should at the present moment make Spanish politicians forgetful of personal and party jealousy. We shall now wait to see what the government can do with the Carlists, with the intransigents and with Cuba. The Republic must give proof of strength or perish.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Mr. Partridge, our Minister to Brazil, is now in Rome. Neal Dow is in Scotland delivering temperance lectures. Charles B. Thomas, Judge of the Tenth Judicial district of Kentucky, is dead. Ex-Governor Alvin Saunders, of Nebraska, is staying at the St. Nicholas Hotel. Samuel Bowles, of the Springfield Republican, is registered at the Brevoort House. State Senator Samuel S. Lowery, of Utica, has apartments at the St. Nicholas Hotel. Assemblyman Henry K. Pierson, of Albany, yesterday arrived at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. William A. Amund, Member of Parliament, of Nova Scotia, is registered at the St. Nicholas Hotel. General Jubal A. Early is mentioned as a candidate for the United States Senate from Virginia.

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NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

General Order from the Navy Department. WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, 1873. The following general order from the Navy Department was issued to-day:—The President of the United States commands it to be made known that all masters or mates who have deserted the naval service and who shall, on or before the 1st day of February, 1874, surrender themselves at any naval station, shall receive a full pardon, and shall be restored to duty without trial or punishment, on condition that they faithfully serve out the term of their enlistment unconditionally at the time of their desertion. GEO. M. ROBESON, Secretary of the Navy.

Naval Assignments.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, 1873. Midshipmen Massie and Roller are ordered to temporary duty on board the Franklin, and upon falling in with the Colorado to report for duty on board the latter vessel. Acting Assistant Surgeon Myers is ordered to the Minnesota. Acting Assistant Surgeon C. D. White is ordered to the Boston Navy Yard. Acting Assistant Surgeon Todd is ordered to the New York Naval Hospital. Assistant Paymaster Baughman is ordered to the receiving ship Potomac. Lieutenant Commander Huntington is detached from the Richmond and granted leave for two months. Lieutenant Meeker is detached from the Torpedo station and ordered to temporary duty on board the Franklin, and on falling in with the Colorado to report for duty on board that vessel. Master G. W. Carlin is placed on waiting orders. Chief Engineer Kierstedt is detached from the Franklin and placed on waiting orders. Chief Engineer Rusler is detached from the Minnesota and ordered to the Franklin.

The Monitors Puritan and Terror.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 18, 1873. The unfinished monitor Puritan, now at League Island, is soon to be placed in fighting trim. The monitor Terror is now ready for sea, and will be immediately placed in commission.

POWER OF THE PRESS.

A Lady Editor Proposes to Lecture on the Fourth Estate. Mrs. Laura S. Webb, an accomplished lady from the South, now the editor of the Western Sun, will deliver a highly instructive lecture on "The Power of the Press," next Monday evening, at Steinway Hall. Her paper is frivolis and insouciant, and if she speaks as well as she writes the audience that will greet her appearance will enjoy a rich, intellectual treat.

THE PENNSYLVANIA CONSTITUTIONAL ELECTION.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 18, 1873. The Board of Return Judges of the election on the constitution met this morning. The official returns show that the majority for the new constitution in this city is 34,124, an increase of over 7,000 majority reported on the night of the election. It is now supposed that the whole majority in the State will reach 300,000.